

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, and 9 have been amended. Claims 1-9 remain pending. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original and other claims in this and other applications. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections are requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

As an initial note, Applicants request that the Examiner indicate consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on November 21, 2005, by initialing the two references listed on PTO/SB/08 and returning a signed copy with the next action.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,969,828 to Kawasaki et al. ("Kawasaki") in view of JP Doc. No. 11-095944 ("Ishii"). The Office Action mailed December 2, 2005 states that a computer translation of this document was sent with the Office Action, but it was not received by Applicants. Accordingly, it is requested that a copy of the translation be included with the next action.

According to the present invention as embodied by claims 1-9, drawing instructions are compressed without dividing, and then, the compressed drawing instructions can be divided in the compressed state. Claim 1, for example, recites "[a]n image processing device comprising: a dividing part which divides compressed image drawing instructions into a plurality of sets of compressed image drawing instructions without decompressing them in such a manner that each set of image drawing instructions can be processed without referring to any other set of image drawing instructions."

In contrast thereto, the Office Action acknowledges that Kawasaki does not teach or suggest “dividing compressed image drawing instructions into a plurality of sets of image drawing instructions.” Office Action, at 2. The Office Action states, however, that the combination of Kawasaki and Ishii teach a block decompression that is carried out without referring to another block. Applicants respectfully disagree and point out that none of the references cited, whether considered alone or in combination, teach or suggest diving an image into a plurality of blocks before compressing it, and thereafter, compressing each block drawing instruction separately.

Unlike the claimed invention, Ishii teaches that an image is compressed for each predetermined line. This means that dividing is carried out after the image is divided into respective lines. Abstract. Further, Ishii teaches in the cited paragraph [0024] that an image is divided when a capacity of a page memory is short and an error occurs. Then, after the dividing, each division is compressed separately. This configuration is clearly different from the present invention in which drawing instructions are compressed without requiring dividing, and the compressed drawing instructions are divided in the compressed state without decompressing.

Similarly, claim 5 recites “[a]n image processing method comprising the steps of: a) dividing compressed image drawing instructions into a plurality of sets of compressed image drawing instructions without decompressing them in such a manner that each set of image drawing instructions can be processed without referring to any other set of image drawing instructions.” Independent claim 9 recites “an image forming apparatus comprising: a dividing part which divides compressed image drawing instructions into a plurality of sets of image drawing instructions without decompressing them in such a manner that each set of image drawing instructions can be processed without referring to any other set of image drawing instructions.”


Unlike the present invention, Ishii teaches first, dividing a plurality of divisions, and second, separately compressing each division. Thus, Ishii's teachings are different from the present invention embodied by independent claims 5 and 9, in which drawing instructions are compressed without requiring dividing, and then, the compressed drawing instructions are divided in the compressed state without decompressing.

Claims 2-4, and 6-8 are dependent claims that each depend from, and recite all the limitations of, independent claims 1 and 5, respectively. For at least the reasons given above, claims 1-9 are allowable. Withdrawal of all outstanding rejections is therefore requested.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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